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Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
Dept. of Justice
601 D St.NW, Suite 1200
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Dear Ms. Hesse,

I am writing in regards to the Microsoft settlement. I know I am only one voice out of many but I do have an opinion that I wish to express. Being a software developer, Microsoft products are part of my arsenal of tools, as are IBM products, that I must use and rely on everyday when trying to develop business solutions for my clients. Although I am sure that Microsoft leveraged its strength in every way possible and probably exceeded some ethical boundaries, I do not believe the punishment should be a breakup of the company or even a disruption of business. You may not remember in the late 80's and early 90's how terribly convoluted the software industry was. Nothing worked together and many vendors were involved when trying to create a suite of tools to work with. I applaud Microsoft for FINALLY getting most of that behind us. And as a developer, I know that in order to accomplish it successfully, many of those pieces had to be closely tied to the operating system. I also know that if you want to install another product in place of a Microsoft product you can. Anyway, to be brief, I would recommend acceptance of the negotiated settlement, and let things get rolling again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill Lewis', is written over the typed name.

Bill Lewis
President